

REMARKS

The applicant's have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the comments set forth in the Final Office Action mailed September 16, 2004 and to discuss some of those comments with the Examiner in telephone conversations held on October 5, 2004. The recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-20 is noted with appreciation. Amendment, reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

In the Final Office Action mailed September 16, 2004:

Allowable subject matter was recognized in claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15 and 17-20; and

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,633,538 to Tanaka, et al. ("Tanaka").

Telephone Interview Summary

On October 5, 2004, the Examiner, Mr. Emerson C. Puente, telephoned one of the representatives of the applicants, Mr. Thomas Tillander, in response to voice mail messages Mr. Tillander left for the Examiner. During the ensuing conversation, Mr. Tillander indicated that he understood the Office Action mailed September 16, 2004 to imply that amendments might render the independent claims (1, 11 and 16) allowable. The Examiner indicated that Mr. Tillander's interpretation was a fair one. However, the Examiner indicated that the Primary Examiner would likely require a new search, which in turn would require the applicants to file a Request for Continued Examination. Mr. Tillander later left a message for the Examiner requesting clarification. The Examiner returned Mr. Tillander's phone call and indicated that any amendment, such as those referenced above, would require a new search.

In light of the above, and to expedite the issuance of the subject matter found to be allowable, the rejected claims have been canceled and selected ones of the allowable claims have been placed in independent form.

The Claims Are Not Anticipated

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka. However, **claims 1, 11 and 16** have been canceled. **Claims 2, 12 and 17** have been placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims. The Office Action indicates that **claims 2, 12 and 17** would be allowable if rewritten in this manner.

Additionally, **claims 3 and 6** have been amended to depend from **claim 2**. **Claim 7** has been amended to correct a typographical error. **Claim 13** has been amended to depend from **claim 12**. **Claim 18** has been amended to depend from **claim 17**.

For at least the foregoing reasons, **claim 2**, as well as **claims 3-10**, which depend therefrom, **claim 12**, as well as **claims 13-15**, which depend therefrom, and **claim 17**, as well as **claims 18-20**, which depend therefrom, are not anticipated and are not obvious in light of Tanaka.

Telephone Interview Request

In the interest of advancing this application to issue, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss the foregoing, or any suggestions the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

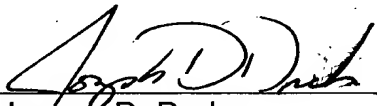
Claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-20 remain in the application. Claims 1, 11 and 16 have been cancelled.

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. An early indication thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 12, 2005
Date


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Certificate of Mailing

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

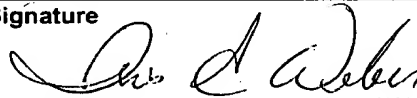
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Iris E Weber